

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-20 and 69-85 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-12 and 21-68 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Claims 69-85 are new.

In the Office Action dated February 16, 2006, the Examiner restricted the prosecution of the application to one of three groups proposed by the Examiner:

- I. Claims 1-12, drawn to preparation of an optionally protected 1-halo-furanose.
- II. Claims 13-20, drawn to a process for the preparation of an optionally protected β -L-2'deoxythymidine.
- III. Claims 21-68, drawn to a process for the preparation of an optionally protected cytidine nucleoside.

Applicants elect Group II, claims 13-20, drawn to a process for the preparation of an optionally protected β -L-2'deoxythymidine. Applicants request that new claims 69-85, which depend originally from claims 13 or 17, be added to Group II.

Examination of the elected claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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